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Perspective, Hope, and Opportunity

GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE 2009 H1N1 INFLUENZA VACCINE
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- The H1N1 Influenza vaccines are made by CSL Limited, MedImmune LLC, Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics Limited, and Sanofi Pasteur Inc.
- All four manufacturers of the 2009 H1N1 vaccine have used the same process they use for making the seasonal flu vaccines, which has a long record of producing safe seasonal influenza vaccines.
- The 2009 H1N1 vaccines have undergone the usual testing and lot release procedures that are in place for seasonal influenza vaccines. FDA approved these vaccines as a strain change to each manufacturer's seasonal influenza vaccine.
- The injectable formulations of the H1N1 vaccine are being produced in multi-dose vial formulations that contain thimerosal, a mercury-containing preservative, and in single-dose formulations that do not contain thimerosal. The nasal spray formulation of the H1N1 vaccine is produced in single-units and does not contain thimerosal.
- People with severe or life-threatening allergies to chicken eggs, or to any other substance in the vaccine should not be vaccinated.
- Children between 6 months and 2 years, adults over 49 years, pregnant women, anyone with a weakened immune system, and anyone with a long-term health problem should not receive the nasal spray vaccine, but *are* eligible for the injectable vaccine. (See the "Vaccine Information Sheets" at the first website below for more details.)
- Adults should be administered 1 dose, as should children and adolescents 10 years of age and older, as clinical trials indicate that they will respond similarly to adults.
- Currently available data suggest that children 6 months through 9 years of age have little or no evidence of antibodies that may provide some protection against the 2009 H1N1 virus. Therefore, children 9 years of age and younger should be administered 2 doses of the 2009 H1N1 virus vaccine, 4 weeks apart. (However, if the second dose is given at least 21 days after the first, the second dose is valid.)
- Both seasonal and 2009 H1N1 vaccines are available as injectable (inactivated) and nasal spray (live attenuated, or LAIV) formulations. Nasal spray seasonal and live 2009 H1N1 vaccines should NOT be administered at the same visit until further studies are done. If a person is eligible and prefers the nasal spray formulation of seasonal and 2009 H1N1 vaccine, these vaccines should be separated by a minimum of fourteen days. However, current recommendations are that all other combinations of seasonal and 2009 H1N1 vaccines (e.g., injectable + injectable, injectable + nasal spray) may be given in any sequence or timing.
- Injectable 2009 H1N1 vaccine can be administered at the same visit as any other vaccine, including pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine. Nasal spray 2009 H1N1 vaccine can be administered at the same visit as any other live or inactivated vaccine EXCEPT seasonal nasal spray influenza vaccine.

Further information about H1N1 Influenza Vaccines is available at the following websites:

http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/vis/default.htm#h1n1live
http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/vaccination/top10_faq.htm
http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/clinicians_qa.htm?s_cid=ccu092109_H1N1QandAs_e